COLORADO SPRINGS
GAZETTE TELEGRAPH
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FREEDOM NEWSPAPERS

EDITORIALS

Tilting at an energy policy

In a fit of hand wringing during the late 1970s, President Jimmy Carter fixated on the fear that America was running out of energy.

He desperately resolved to manage what fossil fuels were left and ensconced that goal in a new bureaucracy he named the Department of Energy, in 1977. It not only assumed some of the responsiblity for our nuclear defense but also invested in some pretty off-beat efforts at producing energy for peaceful uses.

One experiment, an outgrowth of previous federal research, erected giant windmills that used nature's power to generate electricity. Hobbled by an infant technology, the giant fans sputtered inefficiently. With little to show for the effort, the government even shut down some of the monstrosities.

Yet, last week in Denver, Bush administration energy Secretary James Watkins pledged another $5 million in federal funds to — more windmills. We're told the technology has improved, meriting the money to beef up wind-testing hardware in a federal lab at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant near Golden.

Whether or not wind power is the wave of the future isn't really the point. The problem is the government still is pursuing President Carter's delusion of using federal power to manage the nation's energy needs.

The fact is, America isn't running out of energy and never was. Indeed, the oil industry's slump in the mid-1980s was caused by a glut, not a shortage of crude. If anything, gasoline is now a few pennies cheaper than it was at the end of the Carter era — no thanks to federal meddling.

Historically, the private sector has bridged any gap in the nation's energy supply. If in fact petroleum ever becomes a scarce resource, private entrepreneurs as always will prove more far-sighted than government planners in picking a technology to replace it. Private enterprise is dabbling in wind power already — all the more reason to keep the federal government out of it.

The panic fostered by the Carter administration never materialized in an actual shortage of energy, but it did squander tax dollars. Now, the Bush administration — perhaps goaded by political rivals still obsessed with the need for an "energy policy" — wants to pay another installment on this folly.

It's an ironic gesture for an administration that applauded the end of central planning and its epic inefficiency in Eastern Bloc countries two years ago.

It may have been a noble gesture of President Carter to don his trademark sweaters and turn down the White House thermostat — in the hope other Americans would follow suit. But it now seems a bit pathetic given the energy surplus that followed.

The sky always will be falling for a few diehard conservationists; to them, we always will be running dangerously low on some scarce resource or another. Meanwhile, the free market will continue to meet the energy needs of our society.

Sure, some government entity probably is needed to develop nuclear power and other technologies for our nation's defense. That is a proper, constitutional role for the federal government.

But the government has no business trying to meet private energy needs with taxpayers' money when the free market is infinitely more attuned to the task.

Stock market belies pessimism

Painful as the economic recession is nationwide, it ought to be put in perspective. If the Dow Jones Industrial Average is used as a guide, the last decade has seen unprecedented growth in the creation of wealth.

Monday's market gyrations notwithstanding, the last decade has been a boon for stock investors. From August 1982 to August 1992, the closely watched economic barometer staged its greatest increase ever. The Dow average of Aug. 12, 1982, stood at 776.92, but by Aug. 12 of this year, it had climbed to 3,320. That's a 327 percent gain in the decade.

No similar 10-year period registered such an improvement. From July 1932 to December 1942, the Dow increased 190 percent. The next 10 years, from April 1942 through December 1952, the average gained 214 percent. The feel-good years of mid-June 1952 through December 1959 saw a gain of 320 percent. The increase between 1974 and 1984 was 123 percent.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is only one of many economic barometers, but it is an important symbol of business activity because it measures investor confidence in the value of American corporations. During the last 10 years, a bull market has recorded confidence that isn't apparent if focus is put only on current high-profile political issues.

Even in this period of slow growth after a stubborn recession, investors seem to be signaling confidence that the U.S. economy is fundamentally sound.

BACK ISSUES

10 years ago

The state Dept. of Education said 65 of Colorado's 181 school districts have asked permission to increase property taxes.

50 years ago

The Rotarians, Kiwanians and Lions clubs threw their weight behind the scrap drive in the business part of the city.

The Colorado Welfare Department announced the maximum October old-age pension payments would be $41.

100 years ago

The stench that arises from Monument Creek is reported almost intolerable. The dry weather of the past two months has left the creek without a particle of water in it, and the stench arises from the sewage.

The parlors of the First Presbyterian Church were well filled to greet Miss Minnie Calkins, the elocutionist.

Compiled by the Gazette Telegraph research-center staff from past issues of the GT.

DUNAGIN'S PEOPLE By Ralph Dunagin

"WELL IF THEY BOTH KEEP TRYING TO OUT-TRUMAN EACH OTHER, I'M BETTING ON TOM DEWEY."

CHUCK ASAY

IF OUR GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY HAD BEEN AHEAD OF ITS TIME...
Ye olde Timmy farm
YOU WANT THIS FELLOW COMMITTED? WHAT WAS HE DOING?
WE CAUGHT HIM FLYING A KITE IN A RAINSTORM! HE SAID HE WAS CONDUCTING RESEARCH!
WELL, THAT IS A LITTLE UNUSUAL BUT NOT EXACTLY IN THE LOONY CATAGORY!
HE WAS DOING IT WITHOUT A FEDERAL GRANT!
NAME?
FRANKLIN, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN!
ADMISSIONS
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LETTERS/ Gazette Telegraph, Box 1779, Colorado Springs 80901 FAX (719) 636-0202 Modem 636-0127

Vouchers erode representation

A recent editorial supporting the idea of education vouchers included the statement, "A voucher system would end the unfair practice of taxing families who do not even use the pubic school system." I am afraid that you have misled your readers. There is nothing in the current education funding system or the proposed voucher system that changes taxing methods. Our public schools are supported through a combination of local property taxes and money from the state general fund (also our tax dollars). The proposed voucher system would come from these state funds. And there is the rub.

Despite having no children currently in school, our family pays taxes to support education in the same manner as the family next door with two children in school and the one down the street with four in school. But like any other citizen, I can vote in elections for the school board. I can attend and participate in school-related meetings and have a say in how our public schools are run. Their budgets, curriculum and operating procedures are a part of the public record. But look at what will happen with the proposed voucher system. Now I truly lose my representation. My taxes (and yours, too) would now be used to support both public and private schools. Private schools that do not have an elected school board. Private schools that are, well, private — public opinion may not be encouraged or tolerated. Any set of values may be taught. Any viewpoint may be taught. They could be using my tax money to teach students to discriminate against me!

So let's set the record straight. Public schools should be financed with public money and run with public input. Private schools can (and will) teach whatever they want — I don't expect to have any input into their system. But conversely, don't ask me to support those schools with my tax money. After all, I believe that taxation without representation had something to do with the birth of this nation.

— **Niel Powers**
Colorado Springs

Campbell is no conservative

My good friend, Democrat Dave Hughes, in the Oct. 1 Gazette Telegraph extols the virtues of Congressman Ben Campbell as being more conservative than "most of those who wear the label." Labels can be facades behind which all kinds of mischief can be hidden.

I think that the voters shouldn't look for labels when they decide which candidate they wish to have represent them in Washington, but rather, look to the voting record of the congressional incumbent who is being challenged.

If Ben Campbell is a conservative, then Ronald Reagan was a flaming left-wing communist! Let's look at a part of his "conservative" record.

As a Congressman, Ben Campbell voted to:

- increase Congressional free mailing privileges by 57 percent during election year 1987.
- approve the use of congressional staff lawyers to fight the term-limitation effort.
- oppose the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate corruption in Congress involving Jim Wright, Tony Coehlo, and the Keating five.
- forbid employers from moving an employee with a communicable disease out of a food-handling position.

If these votes identify Campbell as a "conservative," then we have gotten fully into the socialistic "newspeak" mode where garbage dumps are now "sanitary land fills," short individuals are "vertically disadvantaged," and henpecked husbands are "marriage impaired."

Terry Considine offers us a fresh breath of non-socialist oxygen in a U.S. Senate that stinks of the smothering stench of "Big Brotherism."

Having returned recently from a visit to destitute, demoralized and financially prostrate Russia, which is desperately fighting to escape the stifling bonds of seven decades of socialism, I will fight to my death to kill the deadly political serpent of creeping socialism wherever it raises its venomous head in this, my beloved country.

— **Cab Brannon**
Colorado Springs

Vouchers grant power to choose

The Gazette Telegraph's Sept. 27 article on Amendment 7 and its supportive editorial on the same day did much to refute the arguments made by the proposal's opponents. But more needs to be said about why we need education vouchers.

Our public school system promotes a noble goal, the opportunity for all children to obtain a decent education. Some children need such assistance. Unfortunately, in a process of promoting education, we have needlessly sacrificed the freedom of parents to choose the educators of their children. Education vouchers provide the means to restore this freedom and to reinstate the ultimate responsibility of parents in the education of children.

America was founded as a democratic capitalist state because the nation's founders preferred to limit the power of government. They acknowledged free enterprise as the best way to obtain a fair and mutually beneficial exchange of goods and services between citizens. They recognized the right to choose who you purchased goods and services from was every bit as important as your right to vote. Education vouchers are about restoring the power to choose.

Look closely at our public school system. This system is a virtual monopoly owned and operated by the government. What you see is socialism in action. Socialism is contrary to individual freedom. Socialism destroys the power of individual citizens to choose, it stifles the diversity of choices that private enterprise produces.

Government monopolies rarely create choices. Without competition, they have little incentive to be innovative. Politicians may even prefer bland, wimpy government institutions. These institutions may please no one, yet they are less likely to offend anyone. But, as illustrated by the increasing dissatisfaction with public schools, the socialist scheme is a particularly inappropriate method to educate the children of a multi-cultural society.

Education vouchers can put the power to choose back where it belongs, with parents. Parents, not government, conceive, give birth to, raise, and love children. As part of their children's education, parents have the obligation and responsibility to impart their religion and their values. Hence parents should have the right to choose schools that best help teach their values.

The government has usurped parental responsibility. The government pressures parents to send their children to public schools. To choose an alternative to the public school system, parents must ransom their children. They must pay school taxes and private school tuition. That is an unreasonable burden.

Make parents, not government, responsible for children. Vote yes on Amendment 7.

— **Richard T. Salmon**
Colorado Springs

LETTERS WELCOME

The Gazette Telegraph welcomes letters to the editor.

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Have a suggestion to make, a comment or complaint about something in our community? Pick up the telephone and Tell It to the GT. The opinions in this column are not necessarily the views of the Gazette Telegraph.

SCHOOLS

■ Under the school voucher plan, parents have taken on a new, revered status. Schools will be accountable only to them. The public will not be able to determine where or on what the money is being spent; parents will. Parents are no different than any other group which has received public money and then abused the privilege. Who is to say that home-schoolers will not use the money for an educational trip to Disneyland?

■ During the last 10 years, student enrollment in School District 11 has gone down while the number of administrators has gone up. This is probably true of other school districts as well. This trend needs to be reversed by reducing the number of administrators and reducing their costs.

■ Those people who live in a small Colorado town and receive a school voucher will have little choice of what to do with that voucher. They can only send their children to one county school. How will having a choice of schools solve these students' problems? Perhaps the only educational problems exist in cities.

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

■ Much of the jump in unemployment we have seen recently is due to hurricanes, the riots in Los Angeles and natural disasters. It is unfair to blame these things on President Bush.

■ All Americans should read, "Agenda For American Renewal," by President Bush. After reading this book, one would realize that Bush should be our choice for president again. We need this man to run our nation. Bush is experienced in everything that it important to us. He knows our military and our needs. He knows foreign policy that Bill Clinton and Ross Perot know nothing about. Perot knows money and that is all. Clinton promises everything to everybody and wants to raise our taxes and cut our military.

■ President Bush and Bill Clinton have been debating the issue of economic recovery, the central theme of the election. Ross Perot is not happy with the way Bush or Clinton intend to deal with the issue. Who better to deal with the economy than one of the most successful businessmen in America? Perot can apply what he has learned in America's marketplace to the world marketplace.

■ Bill Clinton visited Moscow in 1969. When his campaign representatives were queried about this, they denied it and then later admitted it. What else don't we know about Clinton?

■ Ross Perot's idea of reducing the national deficit is to put a 50-cents-a-gallon tax on gasoline. This tax would be highly discriminatory against low—income people. It also would discriminate against people in rural areas who do not travel on busses.

OTHER

■ I am amazed that an organization such as the Freedom from Religion Foundation, with the intention of banning religion, even exists. It is hard to believe that we allow an organization of only 3,200 members to dictate how 200 million people will be treated. As an individual who served 20 years in the military and who received similar stupid letters, I would hope that persons who received this letter would do what I did and throw it away.

■ Conventions in cities smaller than Colorado Springs generate $2 million to $11 million in a single week. We lose millions of dollars every month that we delay in building a civic center. We also lose jobs at a time when we need them most. No other single effort can bring as much benefit to this community.

■ If voters still find themselves undecided about the presidential race, they at least should vote for Al Gore as vice president. Gore overshadows both President Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle. A vice president is only a heartbeat away from the presidency.

■ The only way people can effect change in the way our government is run is to change Congress. It doesn't matter whether we have a Republican or a Democratic president. Voters must change the faces in Congress. If we vote out all incumbents, we will have accomplished something by going to the polls.

STATE

BRIEFING

Investigators mum on woman's death: Mesa County investigators have refused to release details on the death of a 19-year-old woman found in a car trunk last week, but her father voiced no discontent with the investigation.

"They brief us every day," Carl Moore said during the weekend in Grand Junction. "They tell us everything they can, but so far that's been very little."

The body of Paula J. Moore was found Sept. 29 inside the trunk of a car parked in a lot on the east side of Grand Junction. Sheriff's investigators have refused to release the cause of death, or reveal much additional information.

Moore said his daughter was buried Saturday and that his main concern is taking care of her 18-month-old daughter.

Man hurt in fall from cliff: A Clifton man suffered a broken hip after falling from a cliff in Colorado National Monument during the weekend but was in good condition Monday at a Grand Junction hospital, authorities said.

Mark Hinnant, 36, fell 50 to 75 feet while climbing Sunday afternoon in Gold Star Canyon, several miles south of the monument's west entrance. Authorities said Hinnant's wife hiked out of the area to get help while the couple's 10-year-old son stayed with his father.

Jogger's death investigated: Gunnison authorities said Monday they're waiting for autopsy results to determine what killed an 18-year-old student who collapsed and died while jogging at Western State College.

Bruce Johnson of Fort Collins was jogging on the campus in Gunnison on Saturday night when he collapsed, Gunnison Police spokesman Keith Robinson said. Another student saw Johnson and called for help. Medical personnel tried to revive him, but he was pronounced dead at Gunnison Valley Hospital about 45 minutes after collapsing.

Robinson said a doctor in Montrose has performed an autopsy, but authorities had not received the results by Monday.

Gazette Telegraph news services

Court seeks kinder, gentler atmosphere

Arapahoe County reacts to complaints

Associated Press

LITTLETON — A spate of complaints ranging from courtroom violence to discourteous clerks has led Arapahoe County court officials to look for ways to make the courthouse more "user friendly."

Aurora lawyer Joe Kuttler blames lengthy delays in hearing divorce cases for several cases of courtroom violence that have left judges, lawyers and litigants leery of appearing in court.

"If you take a simple case, it will end up in court a year later. By then, the animosity between the people is so intense, you end up with people wanting to kill each other," Kuttler told court officials at a public meeting last week.

The forum, the third since June, was a chance for the public to air their gripes about the court system.

District Judge John Leopold, who is heading a panel to address the complaints, said he intends to help improve the process.

"What I heard today is that there are people out there hurting," Leopold said after the meeting. "There is a lot of fear among people in the courtroom. And what we have to do is somehow reduce that fear and sense of intimidation."

Courthouse security was tightened in 1986 after former Aurora police officer Gerald Utesch crippled his wife's lawyer in a courtroom shooting. The demand for better security intensified in 1988 after 40-year-old Chanh Van Duong shot his estranged wife to death in a hallway.

Leopold said a lack of judges has produced backlogs in Arapahoe County District Court. Last year, 16,000 cases were filed in the district, which has eight judges and two full-time magistrates and one part-time magistrate to oversee them.

July LeQuey complained that rude or indifferent clerks can frighten people already intimidated because they can't afford a lawyer and don't understand the system.

"We know the clerks can't give legal advice, but they can give out information. And they can be considerate," LeQuey said.

CU seminar plan based on notion that less is more

Associated Press

BOULDER — The University of Colorado is experimenting with a freshman seminar program designed to help undergraduates learn more by keeping class sizes small.

The program allows students to interact with professors in an atmosphere that is more intimate than traditional large-scale lecture halls.

"I can pretend to be having a conversation in a large class," said English professor Ed Nolan. "but in a class of 25, I really can."

The seminar program, which has about 600 students, is expected to cost about $92,000 this year. Each course is limited to 20 students. All of the courses are taught by faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences. They are available to freshmen not involved in honors classes or residential academic programs, which already feature small classes.

CU President Judith Albino pushed for the program as part of a long-range plan to emphasize undergraduate education. She also hoped to stem some criticism of overcrowded classes in big lecture halls.

The experiment is drawing praise from both faculty and students.

"All my other classes are in huge lecture halls," said Jill Underwood, 18, of Springfield, Mo. "I've never been asked a question in any of those classes."

Mike Fal, 18, of Monument believes he soaks up more knowledge in Nolan's class than in his western civilization class, which is in a large lecture hall.

However, some faculty members were disappointed because Albino promoted the program without getting their input early on. But Todd Gleeson, an associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said, "The president's office has had pretty much a hands-off approach to the delivery."

POLITICS

Campbell leading in latest poll

Considine campaign points to narrowing gap

Associated Press

DENVER — Democrat Ben Nighthorse Campbell maintains a 16-point advantage over Republican Terry Considine in the latest poll, but Considine supporters are encouraged by a narrowing gap.

"There's no doubt about it," said Considine's campaign manager, Dick Wadhams. "The momentum is ours and Campbell is stagnant."

Campbell led by as much as 32 points in one of Considine's own early polls.

The latest Denver Post-News 4 survey by Talmey-Drake Research & Strategy of Boulder, taken during the last week of September, shows Campbell favored by 51 percent of the 517 registered voters polled compared with 35 percent for Considine. Fourteen percent were undecided.

1992 ELECTION *It's your decision*

Other recent polls have showed Campbell ahead by 7 percent to 9 percent.

Some political observers say if Campbell doesn't step up campaign efforts, he might be in danger of losing the election on Nov. 3.

"He seems so colossally disengaged," said Bob Hoffert, a political scientist at Colorado State University.

In recent weeks Considine has deflected negative media attention to his credibility with a counterattack on his Democratic opponent, especially on Campbell's incumbency in the U.S. House and a trip to Alaska at the expense of an oil company.

Campbell has defended himself instead of attacking Considine. "Campbell is acting as though he is the issue," Hoffert said.

"Terry is doing some very effective television," said Lynn Ellins, a Denver-based pollster and consultant. "He started early, and he hasn't let up, and he's had a variety of messages.

"I don't think Campbell has effectively countered the media blitz," Ellins said. "You just don't have the sense that Campbell's present in the campaign."

Considine began advertising on television before the primary, even though he didn't have a Republican opponent in the August election.

Campbell has used much of his television time to defend himself against Considine's attack on the Alaska trip.

Considine's campaign is better funded. He has raised nearly three times as much as Campbell — $783,000 to $270,000.

Abortion-rights league releases its list of Colorado endorsements

By **Ray Flack**
Denver Bureau

DENVER — The Colorado chapter of the National Abortion Rights Action League endorsed 48 candidates for the Legislature on Monday based on their stands in favor of abortion rights.

In contested El Paso County House races, the group is backing Republicans Bill Martin and Mary Ellen Epps as well as Democrat Daphne Greenwood.

In the race for House District 22, the seat vacated by Democratic Rep. Renny Fagan, the league noted that both candidates — Republican Marcy Morrison and Democrat Michael Duncan — back abortion rights.

"The November election will be the pivotal one of our lifetime with respect to reproductive choice," said Pat Blumenthal, executive director of the organization.

"We are one Supreme Court vote away from a direct overturn of Roe vs. Wade, and who is elected as president holds its fate in his hands," she added. The organization is backing Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton for president.

She said the group is spotlighting legislative races nationwide for the first time because a 1989 high court decision that allows states to place limits on abortion makes those seats "more important than ever."

In several Colorado races, the league made no endorsement. "There were other considerations, including how well we could work with those candidates," Blumenthal said.

Included in the no-endorsement category was the 5th District U.S. House race. Republican incumbent Joel Hefley is anti-abortion while his opponent, Democrat Charlie Oriez, backs abortion rights.

Last week the national arm of the league said it was "going all out" in its support of Democrat Ben Nighthorse Campbell in his U.S. Senate battle against Republican Terry Considine, who is opposed to abortion.

Blumenthal wouldn't say how much the league plans to spend on Colorado races. She said spending on legislative races would be limited to about $250 per candidate.

The Senate race, though, is a different story.

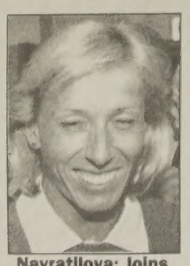
"There is no limit on how much can go to Campbell."

Tennis star rips proposed amendment

Associated Press

ASPEN — Tennis champion Martina Navratilova has joined an off-court battle to defeat a proposed amendment that would outlaw anti-discrimination protection for homosexuals in Colorado.

The Aspen resident, a nine-time Wimbledon champion, called the Colorado for Family Values campaign for Amendment 2 a step backward for Colorado and a slap in the face to the nation's traditions of religious tolerance and personal freedom.



Navratilova: Joins off-court battle.

"They are muddling up religion and politics. America was based on not only freedom of religion, but freedom from religion. But now we're embracing this radical right, and embracing hatred," Navratilova said.

Navratilova, who has been open about her homosexuality, has appeared at fund-raisers for the Equal Protection Campaign, a group formed to fight Amendment 2. She has personally contributed to the campaign against Amendment 2.

The amendment, which will appear on the Nov. 3 election ballot, would repeal anti-discrimination ordinances passed by Denver, Boulder and Aspen, and make it illegal for the state or local governments to protect homosexuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Discrimination against gays and lesbians is widespread in Colorado, Navratilova said, even for people with her celebrity and financial resources.

She has been denied the lucrative endorsements enjoyed by other tennis stars because of her open relationships with other women, she said.

Moreover, she said, people who are associated with her feel the same sting of bias.

"If I'm friends with someone, people automatically assume that he or she is gay," she said.

"Friends have had to be secretive about being friends with me because they can lose their jobs."

Navratilova added that she is angry the groups supporting Amendment 2 claim they are acting on Christian principles.

"They call themselves Christians, but Jesus did not judge anyone," she said.

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PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS VS RESPONSIBILITIES

Amendment 2 on the upcoming ballot regarding homosexual rights provides Colorado voters with an opportunity to make one of the potentially most important political decisions in recent history. The amendment provides us with the opportunity to help regain some measure of quality control over the society we live in and to help instill some degree of sanity in a national culture that is self-destructing. The vote can have enormous implications not only in Colorado, but on national politics as well.

The amendment goes far beyond a simple question of alleged discrimination against one particular group and should be viewed in the broader context of a society suffering from a moral meltdown, as evidenced by the decay of the family system, abortion "rights", an endemic drug culture, mindless pornography and AIDS — evils that stem not from "discrimination", but from our personal behaviour and from the choices which we make as individuals.

The question of homosexual rights epitomizes a "rights" industry that is out of control. We have been inundated by a "rights" mentality that has distorted what most Americans recognize as legitimate rights of opportunity into a cacaphony of political agendas, each with their own coterie of activists demanding that society legitimize their behaviour. The "right" to behave as one wishes to, unfettered by social and moral restraints, not to mention by common sense, does not give one the "right" to coerce society into bearing responsibility for that behaviour. It is not government's mandate, either by legislation or executive fiat, to coerce society into justifying anyone's personal behaviour, whether it be homosexuality, fornication, adultery or prostitution.

Amendment 2 provides all of us with the opportunity to make a firm personal statement regarding what behaviour patterns we as a society should be officially condoning. In today's "rights" industry, one person's "right" is all too often another person's "wrong" and has less to do with individual freedom than with the tyranny of the minority. When, for instance, U.S. West and the California United Way attempt to intimidate an outfit like the Boy Scouts of America into abrogating its own moral values in favor of a homosexual agenda, it is time for all of us to stand up and be counted. The right to discriminate towards individual behaviour is a right which we all enjoy and which is the driving force in any society's cultural refinement. Discrimination among behaviour patterns, after all, is what "values" are all about. For society to be coerced into sanctioning any specific behaviour pattern inverts the very purpose that individual freedoms are intended to accomplish. Anti-discrimination legislation favoring homosexual behaviour deprives all of us of our inherent right, even our obligation, to discriminate against inimical behaviour patterns in any manner that we think appropriate within the bounds of civility.

Homosexual activists insist that it is they who are being targeted by society which means them harm when we legitimately discriminate against their behaviour. I don't think so. Most of us are willing to let our fellow citizen be everything he can be for himself, for his community and for society at large. It is society that is on the defensive against a behaviour pattern that is patently destructive and that is threatening our right to live in a society ordered by some sense of dignity, voluntary restraint and personal responsibility. Homosexual "rights" is an assault against our fundamental moral and social value system — an assault that American society has every right to defend itself against. If homosexuals don't care to have society discriminate towards their behaviour, perhaps they should consider keeping their sexual behaviour to themselves. There is a certain practicality in anonymity.

The ramifications of legislating homosexual "rights" are immense. Should employers, for instance, be forced to include in affirmative action quotas a certain percentage of employees based on their "sexual preference"? Do homosexuals become eligible for governmental entitlements on the basis of their behaviour? Where does one's right of association end and coercion begin? Do we really want homosexuals in the military or teaching sex in our schools? What price would society be forced to pay because someone's behaviour was deemed a "right". That price is becoming painfully evident as the AIDS crisis expands.

No other subject more precludes rational discussion over homosexual "rights" than that of AIDS. No other subject more deserves to be addressed head on. For homosexuals to insist that AIDS is not "their" disease is to abandon reality. AIDS is most certainly "their" disease as it is that of anyone whose behaviour is responsible for its transmission. Homosexuals are killing each other. Their behaviour has become a clear and present danger to themselves and to society at large. With the incalculable social and economic costs of AIDS, American society has every right to ask whether homosexual "rights" is something we want to sponsor. Instead of debating what special "rights" homosexuals should have let's recognize false innocence for what it is and start talking about their responsibility, to themselves and to society.

Amendment 2 carries one simple message — homosexuals already have the right to behave in any way that they want to — they do not have the right to transfer responsibility for their behaviour to others. That is why the amendment deserves to be passed resoundingly.

Paid For By Mr. Whitney Galbraith